

Radiation Hazards for Clean-up Personnel?

Clean-up Underway at Enewetak

by Shelley Buck

A U.S. government attempt to clean up radioactive debris left by more than a decade of atmospheric nuclear testing on the Pacific atoll of Enewetak is raising concern over radiation hazards among soldiers and civilians involved in the project.

The U.S. Defense Nuclear Agency is carrying out the \$20 million dollar clean-up so that the Enewetak and Enjebi peoples, who were displaced from their homes in 1947 to make way for the test explosions, can return to the atoll at last.

Colonel Bill McGee of the Defense Nuclear Agency says that as of early March, 461 U.S. soldiers from Honolulu's 84th Army Engineering Battalion were at Enewetak to perform the clean-up. Most did not volunteer for the duty. Their mission includes scraping plutonium-contaminated soil off the surface of as many as 11 of the atoll's 40-odd islands, as well as digging up buried caches of radioactive debris which were bulldozed under after atomic and hydrogen test shots in the 1950's. The most highly-contaminated materials are then to be carted by open-bed trucks and barges to the island of Runit, where the nuclear wastes will be mixed with cement and dumped in a tide-lapped crater named Cactus. That crater will then be capped over with an 18-inch thick slab of cement.

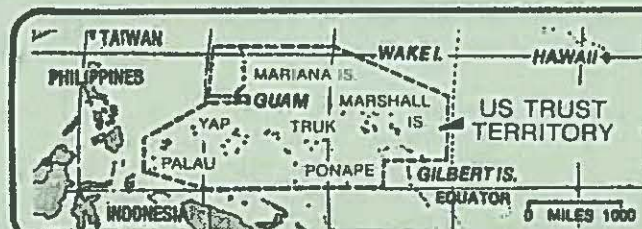
Last spring, an initial group of 56 Enewetak and Enjebi people returned to the so-called "clean" island of Japtan on their home atoll. However, the number of exiled islanders and their children has swelled during their 31-year absence from 142 to an estimated 450—a figure which has raised concern among them as to whether the atoll can yield enough food crops to feed so many.

McGee says the atoll's land mass totals less than two-and-one-third square miles, and that the island of Runit, which is severely contaminated with Plutonium, may have to be off limits for 240,000 years, or ten half-lives of plutonium.

Two other islands, according to Ataji Balos, who represents Enewetak at the Congress of Micronesia, were no longer in existence when the former residents returned. These islands, Bokaidrikdik and Bokombako, simply vanished in the blast of a 1952 thermonuclear test shot.

The Defense Nuclear Agency's master plan calls for re-settling the returning islanders on the two largest islands, and developing other more radioactive islands for agriculture. McGee says that returning islanders will "commute" by boat from habitable islands to those where their food is growing.

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MICRONESIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE
BULLETIN

1212 University Ave., Honolulu Hi. 96826

Micronesians reach accord with U.S.

Micronesian and American negotiators signed an "agreement of principles" for an unique free association status for Micronesia, that will give Micronesia control over internal and foreign affairs, while reserving authority on defense matters to the United States.

The agreement, called an "historic accord" by Amata Kabua, chairman of the Marshalls Political Status Commission, was signed April 9 by the chairmen of the three status commissions representing the Marshalls, Palau and the central Caroline Islands, and Peter Rosenblatt, the American Ambassador to the negotiations.

This statement of principles will provide the basic framework for the future overall free association agreement. While the duration of the agreement is to be 15 years, the right to unilaterally terminate the agreement at any point is reserved by all the signatories.

U.S. TO CONTROL DEFENSE

Point five of the agreement gives the U.S. "full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters" for a period of 15 years and "thereafter as mutually agreed."

According to the agreement, the Micronesians will have full authority over their foreign affairs, including marine resources. However, in exercising this authority, they must "refrain from action which the U.S. determines to be incompatible with its... responsibility for security and defense matters."

The agreement is signed by the three different status commissions. Observers close to the negotiations said this will give each of the island groups the power of unilateral termination. However, any termination prior to the end of the 15 year period will be "subject to the continuation of the U.S. defense authority."

The right of unilateral termination is a breakthrough, in view of the past eight years of negotiations in which the U.S. refused to recognize the right of Micronesia to unilaterally terminate, instead insisting on mutual termination.

The agreement also marks concessions on both sides according to Ambassador Rosenblatt: "It protects significant American interests in the area while granting to the Micronesians the scope (of relationship) they had been asking for since negotiations began."

COM SIGNATURE NOT BINDING

Signed at the three-day session in Hilo, Hawaii, the agreement marked a quick progression of events in the Micronesia-U.S. negotiations that began in 1969 and have languished since the early 1970's.

Bailey Olter, signing the agreement for the Congress of Micronesia (representing the central Caroline Islands), did so ad referendum. Because this means his signature is subject to the approval of the COM at a later date, legally the Congress is not bound by his signature.

The Congress has never recognized Palau and the Marshalls as equal negotiating partners, maintaining that it is the sole negotiating commission for Micronesia.

Observers at the negotiations saw the Congress approval of the agreement as clear recognition of Palau and the Marshalls and hinted that the Congress might withdraw their support for the document upon their status commission's return to Micronesia.

Bilateral talks are now scheduled to resume in May and June, according to the negotiators. See Status Agreement on page 8.

Old Glory and a New Political Status for Micronesia

By Roger W. Gale (Part 2, continued from February Bulletin)

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Political Status Negotiations

Presently, there is somewhat more certainty about the nature of future U.S.-Micronesian ties, since the Congress, the Marshalls, Palau and the U.S. all agree in broad terms of free association as at least a transitional solution. It was not the first preference of the U.S. In 1967, Lyndon Johnson called upon the U.S. Congress to pass legislation for a plebiscite in which Micronesians would be urged permanently to associate with the U.S. There was no action on his proposal nor on other bills submitted subsequently but the first preliminary status discussions were held in 1969. Between then and 1971, when the U.S. agreed to support free association, the American position changed three times from an offer of unincorporated status to commonwealth and finally to free association. Then, six months after having agreed to free association for all of Micronesia, in April 1972, Williams announced in Palau that the U.S. was reversing a 20-year policy of not recognizing requests from the Northern Marianas for reintegration with Guam and was using that sentiment to justify the commencement of direct and separate negotiations for the creation of a new Northern Marianas Commonwealth.

A number of reasons have been adduced by the U.S. at various times to justify its decisions . . . ranging from the concrete to the theoretical . . . It is clear, however, that strategic military considerations were a dominant factor in the American decision since it was precisely at that time that the Defense Department was conducting extensive surveys for the Tinian base. It was enough of a motive, it seems, for the U.S. to be prepared to risk the opprobrium of the U.N. and of groups in the U.S.

THE WIZARD OF ID



Opposition to Marianas Talks

Because of what a U.N. visiting mission to Micronesia called the "almost unanimous opposition" of other Micronesians to the Marianas talks and the temporary preoccupation of the newly created Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations with the new talks, there has been no significant momentum in the Micronesian-wide talks since meetings in Washington in July 1972 when the first partial draft compact was agreed upon. Technical discussions continued through 1976 among Williams, Sali and the attorney for the Micronesian side, Paul Warnke, who is now the chief U.S. strategic arms negotiator. From these technical discussions came a revised draft compact that was initiated by both sides in June 1976, but without clauses on the distribution of U.S. funds and control over the 200-mile zone. Sali resigned shortly thereafter and in December, the leaders of the two houses in the Congress of Micronesia walked out of a meeting in Honolulu when the U.S. announced that it was returning the 60 per cent of Micronesia's land it had held since the war directly to district governments by an order of the secretary of the Interior, rather than through legislation by the Congress of Micronesia, a route which the U.S. had previously blocked through its veto power when Micronesian legislation did not conform to Defense Department demands nor to those of Palau's legislature. Leaders in Palau learned from the land return issue that they could approach the U.S. directly on matters of importance to them, something they have continued to do ever since.

Free association is a difficult status to define in abstract terms, and except for a termination clause it has no other internationally recognized requirements. As it has been developed in the June 1976 draft it is a status which guarantees the U.S. the right to control Micronesia's foreign affairs in return for a measure of internal autonomy and substantial financial rewards.

In contrast, the Northern Marianas covenant which has gone into partial effect is subservient to the U.S. Constitution and American citizenship is automatically extended. While Micronesia's court system will be outside the American system, in the case of the Marianas, there is to be a federal court. Federal laws do not apply automatically in either case as they do with a few exceptions in Guam, but the Northern Mariana government has the option to continue existing programs and request additional ones, a right not

guaranteed in the compact. Micronesia will be able to create its own tax laws but both Guam and the Northern Marianas are bound by U.S. tax laws although revenues collected are retained on the islands. Most important, neither in the Northern Marianas nor Guam is there any provision for termination. In legal terms, then, the compact provides appreciably more autonomy than has ever been granted a U.S. colony with the exception of the Philippines.

Three issues remain unsettled: one is the level of financial support the U.S. will pay for military bases and, perhaps, denial rights and how it will be distributed among the districts. Second, is the unwillingness to allow inclusion of migratory fish like tuna in Micronesia's 200-mile zone. A third issue is termination. In the view of many Micronesians, particularly in the Marshalls, the initial 15 year period is too long and as it presently stands termination procedures are too complex and cumbersome . . .

One other problem which has come to the fore since 1976 is that of defining Micronesia's political boundaries.

Reasons Behind Separation

Although the Nixon Administration set the stage for separatism by agreeing to requests from the Marianas, no administration has been willing to accede to demands from other districts. Palau has expressed a willingness to remain in a "loose federation" but in the Marshalls where power is concentrated in the hands of Amata Kabua and his family which has traditional powers and more recently acquired financial powers as well, there is a lesser willingness to compromise either with the U.S. or with the other districts in Micronesia.

The roots of disintegration in Micronesia, of course, have a very complex history but in their present manifestations separatism in the Marianas, Palau and the Marshalls has been induced by financial concerns, the main one being an unwillingness to share their revenue, most of which is derived from existent or prospective military bases, with the poorer districts—Truk, Yap, Ponape and Kosrae. The Kwajalein missile range which is used as a target for ICBM and submarine missile tests and is the main anti-ballistic missile development center is Micronesia's largest single source of revenue. It employs 4,000 Americans who pay taxes to Micronesia and supports 7,000 Micronesia workers and their families who are paid the American minimum wage which does not apply elsewhere in Micronesia. There are also large—but in Marshallese eyes not large enough—payments for land use and for compensation for those injured by fallout from a 1954 H-bomb blast on Bikini. The inability of the Congress of Micronesia to improve conditions for workers in Kwajalein, to force the U.S. to pay compensation for land use and to improve the medical aid for the 300 or so H-bomb victims is cited as one reason for Marshallese disaffection with Micronesia but the immediate cause of the split was the unwillingness of the Congress to return additional tax revenues to their source, something Truk, the poorest and most populous district fought against.

In Palau, options for military bases and the prospect of constructing a huge Japanese-Iranian crude oil transshipment depot called Port Pacific have raised similar questions about the allocation of revenues and, as a State Department spokesman said in recent congressional testimony, it has "in part fueled" separatism.

Palauan spokesmen have at various times called for a status similar to that of the Marianas but with prospects for construction of Port Pacific dimming and there being no immediate plans to build new military bases, both of which necessitate very close ties to the U.S. for security reasons. Palau's most recent statements tend to support a modified version of the 1976 compact if it includes a \$60 million denial payment to substitute for rental or land purchase payments that had been expected.

The Marshalls Political Status Commission has called for loose ties and in an appearance before the U.N. Trusteeship Council at its annual meeting in June 1977, one member of the commission called for "complete independence."

The response of the Congress of Micronesia to separatism has been to repeatedly proclaim that it is the only legitimate negotiator for all of Micronesia.

Because both Palau and the Marshalls are eager to conclude an agreement with the U.S. and the Congress wants to postpone negotiations until after the referendum on the constitution, the U.S. has, as Rosenblatt says, decided that there is "no moral or practical alternative" to holding talks with Palau and the Marshalls.

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RONGELAP THYROID CASES ON INCREASE

According to Interior Department officials, doctors in the last 18 months have confirmed seven new thyroid cases in the islanders who lived on Rongelap and Utirik atolls on March 1, 1954 when the largest U.S. nuclear weapon, a 15-megaton hydrogen bomb, was exploded on the coral reef of Bikini atoll.

Counting the most recent cases, 33 of Rongelap's 82 inhabitants at the time of the fallout have developed thyroid problems.

Five of them have been ruled cancerous, and doctors believe many of the others would have turned malignant had not the victims' thyroids been surgically removed after the first sign of nodules.

In a related development, it was learned that the Bikini islanders are on the move again.

Nine years ago, the U.S. government told the Bikinians it was safe to return to their atoll, the site of 23 nuclear weapons blasts between 1946 and 1958, and some of the islanders returned home. Now, the government has found it was wrong, writes the Washington Post.

"It is now clear," Interior spokesmen told a House appropriations subcommittee recently, "that for the foreseeable future, the islands of Bikini should not be used for agricultural purposes, particularly for local consumption and should not be considered a residential area."

According to a survey by California's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory last year, the groundwater in Bikini is still

too radioactive for human consumption. So are coconuts and fruits and vegetables grown in the still contaminated soil.

Approximately 100 Bikinians returned to their homeland in 1975 after completion of a rehabilitation plan permitting them to end their government-imposed exile on Kili island, 400 miles away.

Some \$3 million has already been spent in that rehabilitation with the bulk of it going toward replacing the islands' topsoil, planting 50,000 new coconut trees and building 40 new homes for the returning islanders.

"All that will be abandoned," Ruth Van Cleve, Director of Territorial Affairs said last week, and now, the Department of Interior has "quietly" asked the U.S. Congress for \$15 million to move the islanders to another home. Eneu, a smaller island in the atoll is being considered for the islanders' possible rehabilitation.

The Bikinians now living on the island "are being carefully monitored," Interior officials said. "A feeding program has been provided for them and they are not consuming locally grown food."

None of the present Bikini residents, according to Interior officials, appears to have become ill from living on the island.

A ground survey of the island in 1975 found Bikini's interior portion too radioactive for safe occupancy. It also disclosed that breadfruit and pandanas, two staples of the

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International Support Sought for 4-Month Struggle Palau Workers Strike Continental Hotel

by John Witeck, Honolulu

Forty-four Continental Hotel workers in Koror, Palau are holding firm in their 4-month strike despite gunshots, bomb scares and arrests aimed at undermining their struggle.

The strike is a key battle for the emerging workers' movement in the Trust Territory of Micronesia, nominally under United Nations control but administered as a "strategic" economic neo-colony by the United States.

End All Exploitation

Indeed, the PCH strikers have clearly put out a position against all exploitation and colonization of Palauans by either local or foreign interests. Their vice-chairman, Ngiraului Recnebei, put it bluntly to Continental's Vice-President, William Charlock, after Charlock refused to recognize the workers' union or their attorney:

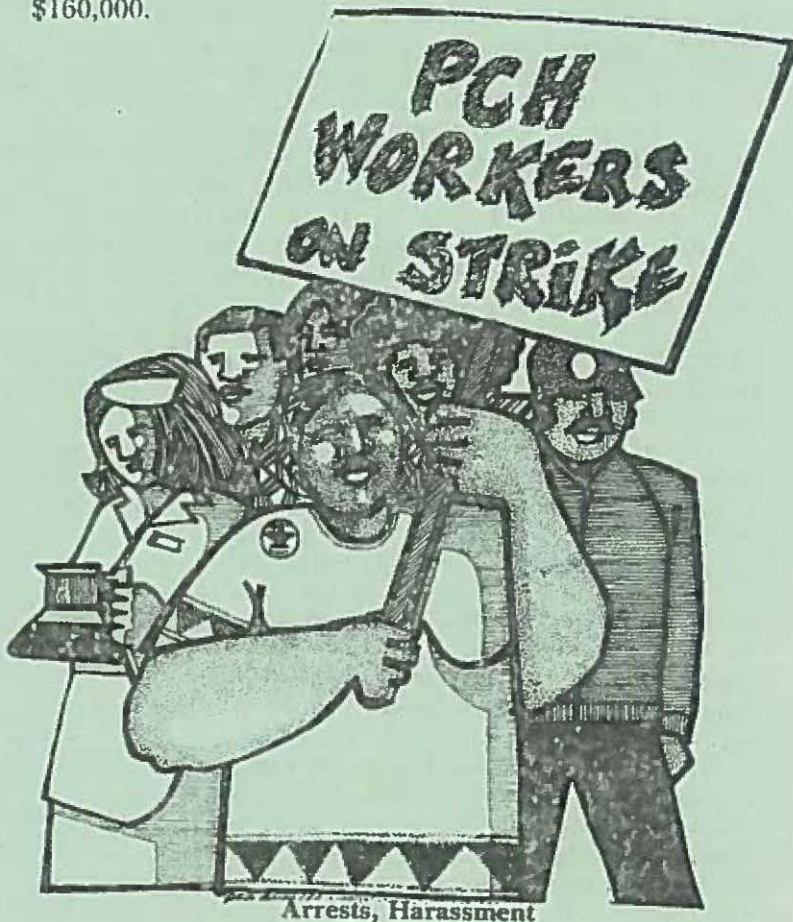
"You are just trying to exploit us. We've been here for centuries. We have our land, we can fish and grow our own crops—and keep picketing this damn hotel. We can wait you out because you need us more than we need you . . . someday we are going to take over. We want to control our own society, not have you control us. And when you come here, you'll come under our rules—or you'll leave. We'll drive you out!!

Some Background

The 37 women and 7 men workers at the Hotel, owned by Continental Airlines (a multi-national U.S.-based corporation), which also operates Air Micronesia, have tried since last October to have their grievances resolved. The Hotel manager, James Moikeha, a well-colonized part-Hawaiian, has been "hostile, arrogant and condescending," according to the strikers, refusing even to discuss their demands. His boss, Mr. Charlock, has been worse; this "racist Ugly American in the truest sense of the word," according to Moses Uludong, the strikers' attorney, even tore up the strikers' proposals in front of them, without reading them. It had taken them 3 days to prepare them.

The workers tried for 6 weeks to discuss their grievances with management before going out on strike last December 10. Their goals include: a 25¢ across-the-board hourly pay hike, with a minimum wage of \$1.00 an hour, and holiday and night shift pay (with assignments on a rotating basis); a 40-hour work week for full-time employees (instead of 32 hours); 3-month probation period (instead of six); the elimination of police abstracts for employment; 6-month job appraisals; 8 hours' pay or new assignment for employees sent home; employees' handbook to be translated into Palauan, with specific work rules; and a grievance procedure that includes the Employees' Association.

Management's response was to turn over the demands to the police, led by an anti-union Chief of Police named Victor Vierra (also from Hawaii). On the first day of the strike, the Hotel Manager drove his car into the picket line, injuring and bruising several workers. The police were on hand to protect the Hotel, and took no action against the Manager, who is nevertheless being sued by five of the workers for \$160,000.



Strike leaders have been arrested five times by Palau's U.S.-trained police, who charged them with "trespass" or "disturbing the peace." Recently the Hotel has been trying to recruit scabs, with the Palau District Government's help. When the strikers went down to the courthouse to see who was applying to work, the police arrested them, choking their union Secretary Julius Blunt, and threatening to open fire on the workers. That same day, the police arrested the workers' two attorneys, charging them with "contempt of

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area, contained too much radioactivity. In the same survey, coconuts were found to be safe for consumption.

The subsequent Livermore Laboratory survey performed in 1977 turned up a strontium-90 level in the well water that exceeded U.S. standards. The radiation level in coconuts was so high that the Bikinians were told they could eat only one a day. Eventually, even coconuts, a dietary mainstay, were placed on the restricted list.

1969 Survey Calls Bikini Safe

Despite a 1969 survey, conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission, which found Bikini island "with virtually no radiation left," government scientists knew there were still contaminated areas and thus the possibility that food grown on the island would have higher than normal levels of radiation.

To keep track of the islanders who had returned, the AEC, now the Department of Energy, arranged to have periodic medical examinations given at Bikini. One was done in 1974 and did not turn up anything unusual.

About this time, however, the Bikinians hired a lawyer to help them win payments from the U.S. government for damages caused them and their atoll during the nuclear testing.

In December, 1975, the Bikinians presented their case to a federal judge in Hawaii. At that session the federal government agreed to undertake an aerial survey of the atoll. But that survey has not been made.

The Defense Department initially balked at paying the \$3 million estimated cost.

As recently as March an interagency committee met but failed to decide how to pay some \$3 million for the long-delayed aerial radiological survey of Bikini.

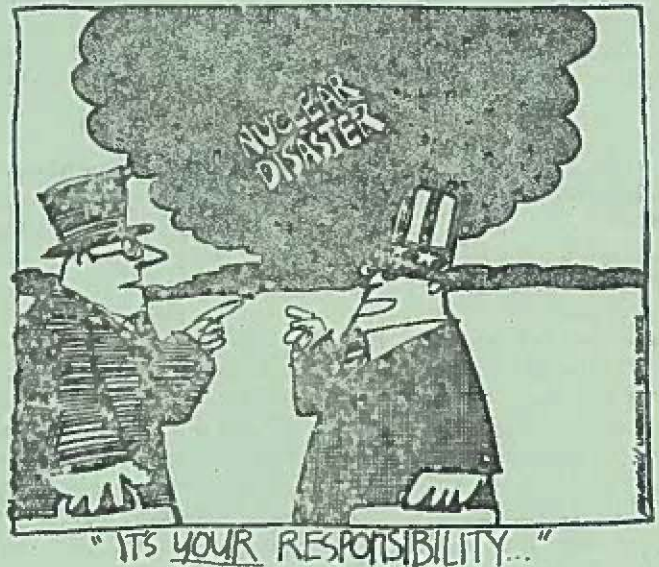
Since 1975, bickering among the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies and the Department of the Interior has delayed the aerial survey.

Last year, the Congress approved \$2.1 million for the radiological survey of Bikini and other Marshall island atolls that were exposed to fallout.

The only atoll that has been surveyed so far is Enewetak.

That aerial survey was done in 1972, as part of preparation for returning the islanders to their homes.

The Enewetak cleanup did not begin until last year and one of the first steps being undertaken is locating and removing plutonium pockets that were disclosed by the aerial survey. In the interim, the few Enewetak people who have returned to the atoll are being kept from the plutonium contaminated areas.



Although the funds have been approved, the Bikini survey date still has not been set. According to Interior and Energy Department sources, the Navy is now saying that the \$2.1 million is not enough to cover costs.

Meanwhile on Bikini, the islanders don't know which areas on the island to avoid so as to miss possible plutonium contamination. Plutonium dust, deposited in the soil can easily be stirred into the air and then inhaled, according to government scientists.

(compiled from *Washington Post* 3/23 and *Marianas Variety* 3/23)

Thank You

The Micronesia Support Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that responded to the urgent appeal for contributions in the last Bulletin. To date, MSC has received slightly more than \$500 from this. Your generous contributions will enable us to pay printing and postage debts for the last Bulletin as well as a back xerox bill.

As much as possible, we try to personally respond to letters, contributions and requests for information from our readers. Because of the increasingly large number of people writing us, there sometimes is a delay in our responses—please bear with us!

This issue of the Bulletin is larger than usual since we are

putting out only one issue for March and April. We expect to put out ten issues a year, funds permitting, to keep bringing you up-to-date news on Micronesia.

As MSC is a totally volunteer organization, your continued support is needed and very much appreciated.

In the past, the *People's Fund* of Honolulu has made grants to the educational work of MSC. People's Fund is willing to accept contributions to the Fund towards furthering the educational work and newsletter of MSC.

Contributions sent to People's Fund are tax deductible and should be earmarked towards future grants for our committee. The P.F. address is: Box 11208, Moiliili Station, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828.

Enewetak Cleanup . . .

Continued from page 4

A soldier who was bitten by a moray eel last fall at Enewetak had to be flown to Hawaii—over 2200 miles away—for treatment.

Doctor Gofman strongly criticizes the standards by which the government has defined islands as "habitable" or "for agricultural use." The former Lawrence Livermore researcher says all such "radiation level" standards are based—not on whether they permit people to live and work safely—but on what he calls "the decision as to how many murders are acceptable."

"They're not based on safety. Anyone who says a given level is acceptable is defrauding you if you are the person he's saying it to . . . What's acceptable to people like government sources or the military or the Department of Energy hinges on such things as this—**what is the outrage level of people?**"

Doctor Gofman, who along with his colleague Doctor Arthur Tamplin was a leading figure in the public debate in the 1960's that led to a 100-fold reduction in allowable omissions from nuclear reactors, concludes:

"I consider that the distribution of things like plutonium

from weapons tests is an unfortunate and a grave insult to humans and other living organisms. It was done. And it's going to be a further insult if they stir it up to try to clean up."

Colonel McGee, meanwhile, says the first lifting of plutonium-contaminated topsoil is taking place on schedule.

On Bikini, meanwhile, islanders are being fed with food boated or flown in as they await yet another evacuation.

And back in the United States, Congressman Ron Dellums has written to the Secretary of the Army, asking him to investigate potential safety hazards to the soldiers performing the clean-up.

Representative Ataji Balos was perhaps prophetic a year ago when he told constituents at a luau celebrating their return to Enewetak:

"I am not a scientist, but who knows what will happen in the future?"

Shelley Buck is a west-coast based free lance writer.

court" for not keeping the workers "cool" and "peaceable." Although the strikers and their lawyers have filed sizeable court suits against the police, they are not relying on the courts. They have launched major rallies, marches and fundraisers in Palau to build support for their struggle.

In January, the PCH strikers marched thru Koror, Palau's capital, in green Army jackets and red headbands, causing Sen. Roman Tmetuchl, Palau's leading and one of the wealthiest capitalists, to take to the air waves at the radio station and rage against the "Communists" marching through town. But the District Government which controls the station refused to allow the workers' response to the Senator's red-baiting charges to be played on the air.

Strong Community Support

The strikers have pitched a large tent, as their strike and living quarters, right in front of the entrance to the hotel grounds. Van Camp fishermen, other workers, relatives and friends come by frequently and bring the strikers food and money. The campsite was the scene of a large demonstration in early February, attended by more than 300 people, mainly workers and poor people. The police showed up, but didn't know what to do, faced with the number of people on hand and the militancy of the rally. Workers went into the hotel and brought out the Manager and four scabs who had worked for months at the place. They forced the Manager to agree to evict the scabs—and then drove the scabs away. They told the tourists who watched the rally not to be afraid: "If you come to our islands as our friends, you're welcome. But if you come to exploit us, we will kick you out." The tourists applauded these words, and some donated money to the strike.

That same month, the Hotel served notice that it had terminated all the workers, and said it might shut down—but tourists continue to come, and a scab-recruiting campaign is well underway. Later in February, a fundraiser was organized for the strikers in a local nightclub, attended by more than 150 persons, again mainly workers and poorer Palauans; more than \$800 was raised. Ibedul (High Chief) Gibbons spoke at the affair and gave the strikers his strong support; the Ibedul is also the leading opponent of the superport; and the newly elected mayor of Koror. A local businessman and politician who urged moderation and compromise caused an uproar at the event, as the workers present reacted strongly against his views.

On February 22, the strikers sent a letter to the Congress of Micronesia meeting in Ponape;

The strikers asked the Congress for strike aid, a minimum wage law mandating \$1.05 an hour, and a collective bargaining law, recognizing the workers'

right to strike and giving them protection. The strikers noted that they had been arrested several times and even fired upon, and that the District Government was no help. The Congress in March, voted to give \$4,000 to the workers' strike fund in a very significant show of support—but has not yet acted on the workers' other requests.

Meanwhile the strikers are holding the line, encamped under banners that proclaim: "Tia Beluad!" (This is Our Country!), "We Don't Want Foreign Exploitation!", "Justice to the Workers!" and "If You Abuse Us, We Will Kick You Out!" The District Government is now trying to harass them for "zoning violations." But the hotel workers are determined to win—and their victory will inspire more organizing efforts and fights for better wages and working conditions throughout Micronesia and boost the independence struggle. As one worker at the Hotel campsite put it: "Fighting Continental has made us more awake to the need to fight for our country against the control of these giants and their political friends, both American and Micronesian. We not only are fighting for wages, but for our very freedom, and the end to all exploitation."

American, International Support Sought

In Hawaii, an ad hoc committee has been formed to support the Continental Hotel Workers on strike in Palau. Press conferences and picketing are being planned to expose Continental Airlines' exploitation and unjust treatment of the Palauan workers, and a nationwide or international boycott of Continental is being considered. The first demonstration was held last April 12 at noontime in front of Continental's downtown Honolulu office. Continental, by the way, is charging hotel rates comparable to those charged in the U.S. (\$35 a day and up), but paying Palauan workers between 80 cents and \$1.10 an hour. Continental has also refused to bargain with the PCH workers in good faith or to recognize their union.

If you want more information or would like to enlist in the support work for the Continental Hotel strikers, contact P.O. Box 11208, Honolulu, Hawaii 96828,

Support the Strike!

Contributions to the Palau Continental Hotel Employees Association are welcome, and can be sent c/o Micronesia Support Committee, 1212 University Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Also, you might give Continental's V.P. in Honolulu, Stan Kennedy, a call at 946-0751, to protest Continental's anti-worker policies—or contact Continental in your city to complain.

Feed Back

Enclosed is my check for \$10 as a contribution toward continued publication of the Bulletin. You're doing a good job. Keep it up.

L.M., Honolulu

As a former Peace Corps Volunteer who has lived in Koror, Palau for two years (1968-1970), I'm very much interested in what is happening in Palau with respect to the proposed oil superport issue.

Please let me know what the current status is, the timing involved on what may happen, who we may contact to protest this. I understand you have a newsletter. I'd appreciate a copy of that also and if you have a regular subscription I will subscribe.

R.F., San Francisco

The other day I saw a copy of your paper in my office. A friend of mine gave me to read. Most of the articles are very interesting and informative. Please let me know how much I'll pay for subscribing to it. I'll be very happy to hear from you, and to receive copies of your paper.

M.A., Truk, Micronesia

On this frigid Chicago morning I am reading the latest MSC Bulletin and I am again outraged and saddened by reading the plans for accelerated development of the superport and the hints by Senator Kennedy that a nuclear fuel dump be established in Micronesia.

In solidarity,

E.G., Chicago

Enclosed please find a check for \$10 in support of your efforts to support Micronesia's peoples struggles against imperialism. We look forward to every issue of the newsletter. Keep up the good work. M.C. and M.M., Honolulu

SUGGESTED READING

The Oceanic Society's most recent issue of *Oceans* magazine is almost totally devoted to excellent coverage of Palau and Micronesia. The January, 1978 issue contains a variety of articles including: Palau: An Oceanic Society by Robert Johannes; A Socioeconomic History of Palau by R. K. McKnight; Leighton Taylor and Ann Fielding on Palau's environment; photographs and commentary on Palau by Douglas Faulkner; and Karen Strauss on the intermingling of two cultures. Two more general articles on Micronesia are included in the magazine: the medical repercussions of modernization by Dwayne Reed and the politics of underdevelopment in Micronesia by Giff Johnson.

xerox copies of individual articles are available on request. Please include 25 cents per article.

Copies of this issue of *Oceans* may be ordered through the Micronesian Support Committee (see coupon) or directly from the Oceanic Society, Bldg. 240 Fort Mason, San Francisco, Ca. 94123.

Also available from the Oceanic Society are copies of their June 1977 symposium on the Palau superport entitled: Palau and the superport: the Development of an Ocean Ethic. It contains interesting speeches from different persons interested in the superport: including Palauans, marine biologists, U.S. government representatives and others. There was a lively panel discussion at the conclusion of the symposium which is included in this symposium report.



Status Agreement

1. An agreement of free association will be concluded on a government-to-government basis and executed prior to termination of the United Nations trusteeship. During the life of the agreement the political status of the peoples of Micronesia shall remain that of free association as distinguished from independence. The agreement will be subject to the implementing authority of the United States Congress.

2. The agreement of free association will be put to a United Nations observed plebiscite.

3. Constitutional arrangements for the governance of Micronesia shall be in accord with the political status of free association as set forth in these principles.

4. The peoples of Micronesia will enjoy full internal self-government.

5. The United States will have full authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Micronesia, including the establishment of necessary military facilities and the exercise of appropriate operating rights. The peoples of Micronesia will refrain from actions which the United States determines after appropriate consultations to be incompatible with its authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Micronesia. This authority and responsibility will be assured for 15 years, and thereafter as mutually agreed. Specific land arrangements will remain in effect according to their terms which shall be negotiated prior to the end of the Trusteeship Agreement.

6. The peoples of Micronesia will have authority and responsibility for their foreign affairs including marine resources. They will consult with the United States in the exercise of this authority and will refrain from actions which the United States determines to be incompatible with its authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Micronesia. The United States may act on behalf of the peoples of Micronesia in the area of foreign affairs as mutually agreed from time to time.

Old Glory . . . *Continued from page 2*

Even though the U.S. is prepared to discuss multi-lateral issues, it is not prepared to accept outright separatism. As Rosenblatt said in an interview, "We are not discussing a separate political status for the districts . . . We are discussing separately matters of district concern." Robert Oakley, deputy assistant secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, was more blunt in remarks he said might be taken as a "threat" when he told participants in the first round-table discussion in Honolulu in May 1977 that the creation of new political entities having their own direct line to Washington was "too cumbersome and expensive" and, if Palau and the Marshalls persisted in pushing, the effect could be to jeopardize the flow of funds. Although there has been no indication of any change in U.S. policy toward separatism since then, the leading role Palau has played in subsequent meetings coupled with the Congress' representatives unwillingness to say anything has put Palau in a position of not only representing its own interests but those of the rest of Micronesia as well. It is always the best prepared party and presents the most imaginative solutions to outstanding issues, among them revisions to the compact that would improve the position of Micronesia as a whole after termination of the trusteeship.

Tmetuchl Happy About Removal from COM

Former Senator of the Congress of Micronesia, Roman Tmetuchl of Palau said that his removal from the Congress "is the best thing that has happened to my life."

Tmetuchl was removed from the Senate by a resolution adopted by the Senate on February 25. The resolution stated that Tmetuchl was removed because of his "neglect of duty and violation of his oath of office."

In spite of his removal, Tmetuchl said he is "feeling fine." He added, however, that he will bring up his removal to the T.T. High Court.

"I am still a Senator. I don't work for the Congress. I work for my people and I am my own employer subject to the people," he said.

7. The agreement will permit unilateral termination of the free association political status by the processes through which it was entered and set forth in the agreement and subject to the continuation of the United States defense authority and responsibility as set forth in Principle 5, but any plebiscite terminating the free association political status will not require United Nations observation.

8. Should the free association political status be mutually terminated the United States' economic assistance shall continue as mutually agreed. Should the United States terminate the free association relationship, its economic assistance to Micronesia shall continue at the levels and for the term initially agreed. If the agreement is otherwise terminated the United States shall no longer be obligated to provide the same amounts of economic assistance for the remainder of the term initially agreed.

An early free association agreement based on the foregoing eight principles shall be pursued by the parties.

Legislator Warns of Dictatorship

Continued from page 7

considering their support of Tmetuchl and the separatist movement.

"The separatists have not said what kind of government they will set up after separation and this is scaring the hell out of many people," Ngraked commented.

Proclamation Exposed

Regarding the Proclamation signed by Tmetuchl and his supporters (see MSC February Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 2) calling for Palau's administrative separation, Ngraked, who had signed the document before his arrest, said it was designed to "offset" Tmetuchl's censure and expulsion last month by the COM and to make him "look not so bad outside of Palau."

The proclamation, according to Ngraked, was prepared after Tmetuchl failed to have the Palau Legislature convene a special session to oppose the COM action.

Tmetuchl's expulsion "is a matter not concerning most of the people of Palau, Ngraked said. "Roman refused to attend the Congress not by order of the people of Palau. It was something he decided himself for his own reasons and he stood to explain it by himself and for himself alone," he asserted.

"But Roman tried to make it a national issue to involve the entire people of Palau and to make it appear a blow to the dignity and integrity of the Palauan people. Many see through his move and are against the proclamation," he concluded.

Chiefs Cable Support of Ouster

Earlier, the two paramount chiefs of Palau, Ibedul and Reklai, cabled the COM to support the resolution expelling Tmetuchl from the Congress. The cable stated: "We fully concur that the people are unjustly deprived of due representation in COM. Palauan people join us in conveying admiration of your courage and dedication in addressing the Senate to this matter, a grave concern to all of us."

"We expect fullest performance of each representative in Palau in COM and hold each one of them personally liable for violation of the high commitments of that public office."

"To uphold and enforce this view, we guarantee the unanimous support for the people of Palau," the cable concluded.

(Compiled from Micronesian Independent, Marianas Variety and Pacific Daily News (Guam))

The Palauan politician called his removal from the Congress "undemocratic" because, he said, it was based on his non-attendance at Congress sessions and not on a serious crime which he has not committed.

He indicated that he will attend the next session of the Congress. When he was removed from the Senate Tmetuchl became the first member of the Congress to be expelled from that Legislative body for any reason.

Tmetuchl, who is the Chairman of the Palau Political Status Commission, said his Commission will be negotiating with the U.S. government on a "close and enduring relationship" with the United States.

(Independent 3/24/78)